Troop Leading Procedures
&
Combat Orders

Subject: Individual Skills Training

Lesson: Troop Leading Procedures

References: Squad Leaders Handbook

Support Requirements: Classroom, Proxima, Laptop

Method: Classroom instruction

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Agenda

- Troop Leading Procedures
- Warning Order
- Operations Order
- FRAGO
- Summary
- Homework

What is the intent behind the use of TLPs?

- Process a leader goes through to prepare his unit to accomplish a tactical mission
- Begins when he is alerted for a mission
- Steps 3through 8 may not follow a rigid sequence
- Many of them may be accomplished concurrently
- rarely will leaders have enough time to go through each step in detail

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Troop Leading Procedures

STEP 1. Receive the mission.

STEP 2. Issue a warning order.

STEP 3. Make a tentative plan.

STEP 4. Start necessary movement.

STEP 5. Reconnoiter.

STEP 6. Complete the plan.

STEP 7. Issue the complete order.

STEP 8. Supervise.

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Receive the Mission

STEP 1. <u>Receive the Mission</u>. The leader may receive the mission in a warning order, an operation order (OPORD), or a fragmentary order (FRAGO). The leader immediately begins to analyze it using the factors of METT-TC:

- **What is the <u>MISSION</u>?**
- **What is known about the <u>ENEMY</u>?**
- **How will <u>TERRAIN</u> and weather affect the operation?**
- **What <u>TROOPS</u> are available?**
- **How much <u>TIME</u> is available?**
- **What are the <u>CIVILIAN CONSIDERATIONS</u> for the operation?**

(1) One third of the available time for his own planning and for issuing the operations order. Remaining two thirds is for subordinates to plan and prepare for the operation.

Consider other factors such as available daylight and travel time to and from orders and rehearsals. Offense: The leader has one third of the time from his receipt of the mission to the unit's LD time.

Defense: Leader has one third of the time from mission receipt to the time the squad or platoon must be prepared to defend.

(2) Reverse planning-- LD or defend time. Allow enough time for the completion of each task.

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Issue a Warning Order

order. STEP 2. Issue a Warning Order. The leader provides initial instructions in a warning order.

Contains enough information to begin preparation as soon as possible.

SOPs should prescribe who will attend all warning orders and the actions they must take upon receipt: for example, drawing ammunition, rations and water, and checking communications equipment.

The warning order has no specific format. One technique is to use the five-paragraph OPORD format or the four-paragraph format. The leader issues the warning order with all the information he has available at the time. He provides updates as often as necessary.

The following should be included in the WARNO (if available):

- **The mission or nature of the operation.**
- **Who is participating in the operation.**
- **Time of the operation.**
- **Time and place for issuance of the operation**

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Make a Tentative Plan

(1 of 2)

STEP 3. Make a Tentative Plan. The leader develops an estimate of the situation to use as the basis for his tentative plan. The estimate is the military decision making process.

Consists of five steps: detailed mission analysis, situation analysis and course of action development, analysis of each course of action, comparison of each course of action, and decision. The decision represents the tentative plan.

The leader updates the estimate continuously and refines his plan accordingly. He uses this plan as the start point for coordination, reconnaissance, task organization (if required), and movement instructions. He works through this problem solving sequence in as much detail as time available allows. As the basis of his estimate, the leader considers the factors of METT-TC:

- (1) ***Mission.*** The leader considers his mission as given to him by his commander. He analyzes it in light of the commander's intent two command levels higher, and derives the essential tasks his unit must perform in order to accomplish the mission.
- (2) ***Enemy.*** The leader considers the type, size, organization, tactics, and equipment of the enemy he expects to encounter. He identifies their greatest threat to his mission find their greatest vulnerability.

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Make a Tentative Plan

(2 of 2)

STEP 3. Make a Tentative Plan (continued).

(3) *Terrain.* The leader considers the effect of terrain and weather on enemy and friendly forces using OCOKA:

- **(a) *Observation and fields of fire.***
- **(b) *Cover and concealment.***
- **(c) *Obstacles.***
- **(d) *Key terrain.***
- **(e) *Avenues of approach.***
- **(f) *Weather.* In considering the effects of weather, the leader is most interested in visibility and trafficability.**

(4) *Troops available.* The leader considers the strength of subordinate units, the characteristics of his weapon systems, and the capabilities of attached elements as he assigns tasks to subordinate units.

(5) *Time available.* The leader refines his allocation of time based on the tentative plan and any changes to the situation.

(6) *Civilian Considerations*. The leader must take into account the number of displaced civilians that may be encountered during the operations. The leader must determine what actions to take if civilians are on the battlefield.

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Start necessary movement

STEP 4. <u>Start Necessary Movement</u>.

The platoon may need to begin movement while the leader is still planning or forward reconnoitering.

The PSG or a SL may bring the platoon forward, usually under the control of the company XO or 1SG

This step could occur at any time during the troop-leading procedure.

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Reconnoiter

STEP 5. <u>Reconnoiter</u>. If time allows, the leader makes a personal reconnaissance to verify his terrain analysis, adjust his plan, confirm the usability of routes, and time any critical movements. When time does not allow, the leader must make a map reconnaissance. The leader must consider the risk inherent in conducting reconnaissance forward of friendly lines. Sometimes the leader must rely on others (for example, scouts) to conduct the reconnaissance if the risk of contact with the enemy is high.

Complete the Plan

STEP 6. <u>Complete the Plan</u>. The leader completes the plan based on the reconnaissance and any changes in the situation.

The leader should review the mission, as she/he received it from his commander, to ensure that her/his plan meets the requirements of the mission and stays within the framework of the commander's intent.

Issue the Complete Order

STEP 7. <u>Issue the Complete Order</u>. Platoon and squad leaders normally issue oral operations orders.

(1) To aid subordinates in understanding the concept for the mission, leaders should issue the order within sight of the objective or on the defensive terrain. When this is not possible, they should use a ***<u>terrain model</u>*** or sketch.

(2) Leaders must ensure that subordinates understand the mission, the commander's intent, the concept of the operation, and their assigned tasks. Leaders may require subordinates to repeat all of part of the order or demonstrate on the model or sketch, their understanding of the operation. They should also quiz their soldiers to ensure that all soldiers understand the mission.

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Supervise
(1 of 2)

STEP 8. <u>Supervise</u>. The leader supervises the unit's preparation for combat by conducting rehearsals and inspections.

(1) ***Rehearsals.*** The leader uses rehearsals to--

- Practice essential tasks (improve performance).
- Reveal weaknesses or problems in the plan.
- Coordinate the actions of subordinate elements.
- Improve soldier understanding of the concept of the operation (foster confidence in soldiers).

– (a) Rehearsals include the practice of having squad leaders brief their planned actions in execution sequence to the platoon leader.

– (b) The leader should conduct rehearsals on terrain that resembles the actual ground, and in similar light conditions.

– (c) The platoon may begin rehearsals of battle drills and other SOP items before the receipt of the operation order. Once the order has been issued, it can rehearse mission specific tasks.

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Supervise
(2 of 2)

- (d) Some important tasks to rehearse include--
  - Actions on the objective.
  - Assaulting a trench, bunker, or building.
  - Actions at the assault position.
  - Breaching obstacles (mine and wire).
  - Using special weapons or demolitions.
  - Actions on unexpected enemy contact.

- (2) ***Inspections.*** SLs should conduct initial inspections shortly after receipt of the warning order. The PSG spot checks throughout the unit's preparation for combat. The PL and PSG make a final inspection. They should inspect--
  - Weapons and ammunition.
  - Uniforms and equipment.
  - Mission-essential equipment.
  - Soldier's understanding of the mission and their specific responsibilities.
  - Communications.
  - Rations and water.
  - Camouflage.
  - Deficiencies noted during earlier inspections.

Warning Order (WARNO)
(1 of 3)

Provided after receipt of higher's WARNO, should go out NLT 30 minutes from receipt of higher's WARNO

4 paragraph format:

1. Situation: Enemy and his actions, friendly and actions, any attachments or detachments

2. Mission: Restated mission from mission analysis (Task and Purpose)

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Warning Order (WARNO)
(2 of 3)

3. General Instructions:

a. Special teams or task organization

b. Uniform and equipment common to all (modifications the SOP)

c. Special weapons, ammo, or equipment (different from the SOP): mines, grappling hooks, NVDs

d. Tentative time schedule

e. Additional instructions as needed or by SOP

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Warning Order (WARNO)
(3 of 3)

4. Special Instructions

a. To subordinate leaders (PSG, SL, RTO, Medic, FO, attachments)

b. To persons helping in preparation of an operation order

c. As needed or by SOP

Operations Order (OPORDER)
(1 of 6)

- Five paragraph format
- Use a terrain model/sandtable, or sketch
- Begin with task organization (can include weather and OAKOC)
- Safety should be included under coordinating instructions, not paragraph 6
- Use 1/3, 2/3 rule

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Operations Order (OPORDER)
(2 of 6)

I. Situation.

a. Enemy situation. Composition, disposition, strength, and most probable COA

b. Friendly situation. Higher mission, intent, and units to left, right, front, and rear

c. Detachments/Attachments (who, and time task organization occurs)

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Operations Order (OPORDER)
(3 of 6)

II. Mission.

Clear, concise statement of the unit's mission, and states who, what, where, when, and why

1/B/3-9 IN, seizes Objective Dog (UV 089754) NLT 030500Sep01 to allow 2/B/3-9 IN (the ME) to destroy Objective Cat.

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Operations Order (OPORDER)
(4 of 6)

III. Execution.

a. Concept of the Operation. Leader's intent, scheme of maneuver, designation of ME and SEs, how plan on accomplishing mission from start to finish (include fires and obstacle plans)

b. Task to Subordinate Units.

c. Coordinating Instructions. Apply to two or more subordinate units/elements, include safety

Operations Order (OPORDER)
(5 of 6)

IV. Service Support.

All classes of supplies are covered (if necessary), handling of EPWs and captured documents, and transportation.

What are the main classes of supply? How many are there?

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Operations Order (OPORDER)
(6 of 6)

V. Command and Signal.

a. Command. Leader location during operation, succession of command, location of CPs

b. Signal. Call signs, frequencies, challenge and password, brevity codes (if necessary), signals (pyrotechnics)

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Fragmentary Order (FRAGO)

Format is same as OPORDER, just discuss information that changed since OPORDER

Summary

- Troop Leading Procedures
  - What are the 8 steps?
- Warning Order Format
  - What are the 4 paragraphs?
- Operations Order Format
  - What are the 5 paragraphs?
- Fragmentary Order
  - When used?